

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A device for installing a piston ring comprising:

a base that has a through-hole passing through the base in a vertical direction;

a guide member disposed in the through-hole and fixed to the base, ~~for positioning a piston in the vertical direction while~~ the guide member having a concave part for receiving a head of a piston that is the piston suspended and held downwardly in a vertical~~the vertical~~ direction and swingably connected to a connecting rod, and guiding a piston ring while widening a diameter of the piston ring by means of an outer peripheral surface of the guide member;

a piston pressing member disposed above the base and ~~supported movably toward a concave part of the guide member, and~~ having a centering part that performs a centering action while ~~depressing~~ coming into contact with an upper end edge of the piston suspended downwardly in the vertical direction;

a driving mechanism, ~~disposed~~ provided on the base, for driving the piston pressing member ~~at least in the vertical direction toward the concave part of the guide member while~~ holding the piston pressing member; and

a ring feeding mechanism that feeds the piston ring guided by the guide member upwardly,

wherein the centering part of the piston pressing member is formed into the shape of a cylindrical cap that is opened downwardly and has a notch part defined by cutting off a part thereof so as not to come into contact with the connecting rod of the piston, and a tapered inner wall surface that is widened downwardly so as to come into contact with the upper end edge of the piston.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The device for installing a piston ring as set forth in Claim 1~~Claim 3~~, wherein the driving mechanism includes:

a vertically movable member driven in the vertical direction;

a horizontally movable member that holds the piston pressing member, and that is supported movably horizontally with respect to the vertically movable member; and

a cam member that exerts a cam action onto a follower provided on the horizontally movable member.

5. (Original) The device for installing a piston ring as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the guide member includes a lower guide part formed as an outer peripheral surface with the same diameter over a predetermined length, and the lower guide part has an annular convex part that is formed at a halfway position in an axial direction thereof and that restricts a downward movement of the piston ring.

6. (Original) The device for installing a piston ring as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the concave part of the guide member is provided with at least three positioning blocks to come into contact with the head of the piston and to position the piston in the vertical direction.

7. (Original) The device for installing a piston ring as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the base is provided thereon with a ring sensor that detects a piston ring immediately before the piston ring is disengaged from an upper end of the guide member.

8-9. (Cancelled)